

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-06 /043 W

-----010329Z 082442 /72-62

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 184

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMCONSUL KADUNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 3539

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, ETRD, PFOR, NI

SUBJECT: NEW NIGERIAN RESTRICTIONS ON BERTHING IN LAGOS PORT

REFC (A) STATE 61695 (B) LAGOS 3292

1. FOLLOWING REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING BETWEEN SHIPPING LINES AND NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY (NPA), FARRELL REP KRISTBERGS REPORTED FOLLOWING:

A. INSTEAD OF ENDING IN MARCH AS NPA HAD HOPED (LAGOS 1232), CONFERENCE BERTHING RESTRICTIONS EXTENDED ANOTHER TWO MONTHS IN MODIFIED FORM;

B. CONFERENCES LOSE USE THEIR BERTHS FOR ROUGHLY ONE WEEK PER MONTH PER BERTH, BUT

C. DURING TWO-MONTH PERIOD NPA WILL INTRODUCE LIGHTERAGE UNLOADING OF CONFERENCE VESSELS; DUE OWN TECHNICAL LIMITATIONS AMERICAN CONFERENCE CANNOT UTILIZE LIGHTERS FOR ANOTHER MONTH BUT OTHER CONFERENCES HAVE STARTED.

2. KRISTBERGS ALSO REPORTED THAT PRIORITY SYSTEM WILL CONTINUE FOR PORT HARCOURT SINCE LINES HAVE CONVINCED NPA CONGESTION THERE STEMS FROM LACK OF TRUCKS BY NIGERIAN NATIONAL SUPPLY CO.

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3. HE PUT CURRENT LAGOS PORT QUEUE AT 103 VESSELS.

MAR. 29 LAGOS BUSINESS TIMES PUTS IT AT 108 AND ALSO REPORTS THAT 10 NEW BERTHS UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT TIN CAN ISLAND BY GERMAN FIRM OF JULIUS BERGER WILL BE COMPLETED SEPTEMBER.

4. KRISTBERGS SAID HIGH LEVEL GROUP AMERICAN SHIPPING

EXECUTIVES ARRIVING LAGOS APRIL 19 TO HOLD EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE OF CONFERENCE LINES AT NEW EKO-HOLIDAY HOTEL.

5. COMMENT: KRISTBERGS FEELS EMBASSY APPROACH TO FMG OVER RESTRICTIONS WARRANTED. ALTHOUGH LATEST MODIFICATIONS REPRESENT SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN INCREASING CONFERENCE ACCESS TO BERTHS AND MAKING INTERRUPTIONS MORE ORDERLY AND PREDICTABLE, FARRELL WILL LOSE 20 DAYS BERTHING NEXT TWO MONTHS EVEN IF SYSTEM WORKS WELL, ACCORDING KRISTBERGS. THIS REPRESENTS OBSTACLE TO AMERICAN EXPORTS. HE ALSO DESIRES EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR ACCESS TO FORTHCOMING TIN CAN ISLAND BERTHS. KRISTBERGS WILL PROVIDE SPECIFIC MATERIAL TOMORROW AND EMBASSY WILL MAKE DEMARCHE TO FMG AS SOON AS ARGUMENTS ARE MARSHALED.
CROSBY

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Message Attributes

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